

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 20, 2026

Dear Secretary Rollins,

We urge you to quickly approve the disaster designation requested by New Jersey's Farm Service Agency to unlock federal relief for farmers devastated by highly anomalous freezing temperatures in April 2026.

Early summer-like temperatures in April, including temperatures above 90 degrees, caused trees, vines, and bushes to begin to bloom. A sudden dip below freezing temperatures then killed the vulnerable blooming buds.

The impact of this freeze has been extensive and disastrous, nearly entirely wiping out this year's peach, apple, and grape crops in New Jersey. Further, winegrowers may experience an additional year of crop loss from vine damage. Approximately half of New Jersey's blueberry crop has been decimated, and significant losses have also been reported for pears, cherries, plums, and strawberries. We expect damage to other crops to be revealed as well.

The severity of this weather event is largely unprecedented—a freeze of similar consequence has not occurred in many decades. Growers are in desperate need of support.

Please move swiftly to approve New Jersey's disaster designation request, which would allow producers to access low-interest loans and other assistance from USDA. We look forward to working with you to ensure Garden State growers can recover quickly from this severe disaster.

Sincerely,



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



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Andy Kim  
United States Senator